

W5YI REPORT

Up to the minute news from the world of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable. May be reproduced providing credit is given to The W5YI Report.

Dits & Bits

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August 15, 1987

Several Groups Propose to Issue Ham Call Signs

The pleading cycle in PRB-3 is now over. PRB-3 is the FCC Public Notice vehicle that asks for proposals from the private sector on privatizing the issuance of specific call signs in the Amateur Radio Service. It was released in response to letters received from the ARRL, Callbook Magazine, Gordon Gorton of the Sunnyvale VEC group and the Central Alabama VEC.

While acknowledging the large demand in the Amateur service for call signs of choice, the Commission said it cannot, in light of its dwindling resources, honor requests for specific call signs. The rules further state that FCC issued amateur call signs shall be issued "systematically." (§97.51)

In PRB-3, the FCC said that "It appears that a practical approach would be for the actual station licensing function — including the assignment of a call sign — to be performed by the FCC before the private sector becomes involved. Then, upon the licensee's request, a Special Call Sign Coordinator (SCSC) in the private sector would assign one or more supplemental special call signs. The selection system for determining which licensees would be eligible for which callsigns would be the prerogative of the SCSC."

"A special call sign identification

could be used in lieu of the FCC-assigned call sign during the station identification procedure required by §97.84. The assignment of a special call sign would be a service for the licensee, not a condition of FCC licensing nor a service replacing the FCC. The SCSC would maintain a data base of assigned special call signs for use in monitoring and compliance work. Special call sign assignments would not be incorporated into the FCC's license data base."

The FCC said that an SCSC would need to have the:

- (1.) ability to assign call signs to amateur stations in an efficient and objective manner;
- (2.) ability to provide an accurate on-line access data base of assigned special call signs for monitoring and compliance work;
- (3.) ability to minimize FCC resources required in the establishment of the special call sign system; and
- (4.) ability to minimize the cost to the licensee for administering the system.

The initial April 23rd comment date was later extended to July 31st. Several comments and proposals were received - not all of which are in our possession yet.

While most amateurs supported the issuance of specific call signs, some did not.

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Some of the comments included:

"Self-policing efforts within the amateur community will suffer a serious setback if the current matter is adopted by the Commission." (WB5YYX, Robert Scupp)

"About 15 years ago this option was made available to Extra Class operators with great success. I believe that it could be made available again to the Extra Class licensee." (WA8FHF, George Alfman)

"PRB-3, as proposed, would by feeding the egos of a tiny minority, cause continued antagonism among the majority." (K3TX, David Heller)

Some commenters did not feel it appropriate for call signs of deceased amateurs to be indiscriminately reassigned.

We were able to collect proposals from some organizations that submitted proposals to be an SCSC.

SUNNYVALE-VEC SCSC PROPOSAL....

Gordon Girton, W6NLG, president of the newly formed not-for-profit Callsign, Inc. proposed in a 19-page proposal to be named the SCSC in all regions using time share data processing facilities. Girton further proposed:

- (1.) To set up do not issue file of call signs that, for one reason or another, should not be issued - or reissued.
- (2.) First issue call signs to applicants that previously held that call sign ...or that meet certain other criteria.
- (3.) Issue callsigns that have never been issued before (first year.) Expand to previously issued call signs the second year using a multi-user computer assignment system from thirteen different field sites using a toll-free 800 number.
- (4.) Callsign, Inc.'s fee would be \$30 for the first two years.
- (5.) Up to eleven different call signs could be authorized to a licensee.
- (6.) Girton foresees a staff of 13 to 20 employees.
- (7.) Special event 1-by-1 call signs were provided for.
- (8.) Licensees would be eligible for shorter and more desirable call signs as they upgraded.

W5YI-VEC REGIONAL SCSC PROPOSAL....

Fred Maia, W5YI, suggested that SCSC's be appointed on a regional basis and applied for the fifth call sign region. Call signs of choice would be assigned on a simple first-come-first-serve basis after a six month implementation period when "special situations" would be accommodated.

Maia also said he felt it was unnecessary to have the specific call signs "on-line" when a simple phone call or letter should suffice for compliance purposes. He suggested a \$10.00 fee using microcomputers and database software. "There is no reason to make assignment of specific amateur call signs any more complicated than it has to be."

He also asked the FCC to provide basic starting call sign assignment guidelines in much the same fashion the FCC privatized volunteer testing.

BUCKMASTER AND CALLBOOK PROPOSALS

We also understand that the Callbook Magazine and Buckmaster Publishing, both of whom currently maintain up-to-date FCC databases of licensed amateurs, submitted proposals but we have not yet obtained them.

The two most impressive call sign proposals that we saw, however, were submitted by the Central Alabama VEC, Inc. (35 typewritten pages) and the American Radio Relay League - a whopping 56-pager! Both were filed with the FCC on the last day.

CENTRAL ALABAMA VEC, INC. PROPOSAL

CAVEC, a non-profit, tax-exempt, publicly supported corporation, applied to be the SCSC in all regions. Headquarters will be located in Selma, Alabama, with a Technical Services Section at Huntsville near NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center.

A privately owned data processing system has been contingently leased that can handle six incoming toll-free "800" phone lines with provision to increase line capacity to twelve. Six (Eastern, Far Western, Mid-Western, North Eastern, Southern and Western)

W5YI-VEC P.O. Box 101-1 Dallas Texas 75207
We have developed a complete Novice Package that includes a ham ticket without 1-4 Hr. Novice Code Test Preparation Tape
NOVICE VOICE CLASS PACKAGE \$19.95 + \$2.00
H H Leal de C f C fte F

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JUNE VE PROGRAM STATISTICS....

	June 1986	1987
No. VEC's:	*75	*59
No Testing Sessions:	306	430
	1986	1987
ARRL:	50.7%	42.8%
W5YI:	20.6%	25.6%
DeVRY:	4.9%	5.6%
CAVEC:	6.2%	6.5%
Others:	17.6%	19.5%
Year-to-Date Sessions:	1,867	2,220
No. Elements Administered:	6,221	8,666
	1986	1987
ARRL:	55.3%	51.8%
W5YI:	19.1%	21.0%
DeVRY:	4.1%	5.0%
CAVEC:	4.0%	3.8%
Others:	17.5%	18.4%
Year-to-Date Elements Adm:	34,060	43,209
No. Applicants Tested:	3,925	5,301
	1986	1987
ARRL:	55.6%	44.7%
W5YI:	18.0%	20.0%
DeVRY:	4.6%	5.6%
CAVEC:	4.1%	3.8%
Others:	14.7%	25.9%
Year-to-Date Appl. Tested:	23,368	27,348
Pass/Upgrade Rate, All:	59.8%	60.0%
Pass/Upgrade Rate, W5YI:	61.1%	58.6%
Applicants per Session:	12.8	12.3
Appl. per Session/W5YI:	8.5	7.8
No. Elements Per Appl./All:	1.45	1.63
No. Sessions Per VEC/All:	4.1	7.3

Administrative Errors by VE's/VEC's

Defective Applications:	0.3%	0.2%
Late Filed Sessions:	2.0%	0.5%
Defective Reports:	2.3%	3.0%

* = The FCC considers ARRL, W5YI, and DeVry to be 13 VEC's each since VEC's are appointed on a regional basis. The 13 regions are: Call sign districts 1 through 0 plus: Alaska (11) and Caribbean (12) and Pacific Insular areas.(13)

[Source: FCC, Washington, D.C. 20554]

● Canada is also going the question pool/VE examining route. The Canadian Amateur Radio Federation advises that the DOC (Department of Communications) has made public the Amateur and Advanced Amateur test questions and welcomes constructive comment.

TANDY COMPUTERS...

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DECADE MAKES

Last Monday, Radio Shack celebrated the tenth anniversary of their August 3, 1977, introduction of the TRS-80 Model 1-Level 1. It was Radio Shack's first product ever sold for over \$500 ...and the first fully assembled microcomputer ever to be offered through retail outlets nationwide. The "Shack" had to make their own market - computer publications simply didn't exist then. Being a "tinkerer", we bought one even though we knew nothing about computers, programming or word processing.

Frankly, there were some problems with it. For one thing, when you pressed a key, you got two of the same character - one on the downstroke, and another when you let up on the key. I wasn't too happy when I had to buy "debounce" software to fix that. Nor was I pleased when I had to pay twenty bucks to get a new chip to replace a defective one. All Model-1's had a "mask" problem. Somehow, Tandy has gotten away with charging customers to repair their problems.

Tandy's microcomputer sales now exceed the entire Radio Shack chain sales of ten years ago ...so they must be doing something right. I only wish I had the foresight to buy their stock then. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1987, Tandy recorded sales of \$3.5 billion - over \$700 million (675,000 units) were personal computers. And Tandy PC sales are running some 42% ahead of last year.

I have been putting out this newsletter every two weeks for nearly ten years now. Initially, I needed a way to write and rearrange prose before printing out. Every W5YI Report has been totally produced using Radio Shack computers, printers and software ...I go back to the TRS-80 beginning.

The initial documentation for the TRS-80 Model-1 was written by Dave Lien, a San Diego math and electronics professor who went on to found Compusoft Publishing. He is now the nation's leading computer documentation writer. Dave, a long time subscriber to this newsletter, is W6OVP ...and an ex-broadcast engineer.

I am a currently licensed Extra Class amateur radio operator and wish to be a "joint" examiner. I have never had my station or operator license revoked or suspended. I do not own a significant

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER EXAMINER?

Inde the II R it I am po, use a c of your Extra Class license this signed statement, and a SASE

He has books out covering every major PC. To this day, I "trashcan" Tandy's documentation and use his since it is easier for me to understand. Even though Dave's a PH.d and ex-college dean, he seems to gear his stuff towards "thick-heads" like me.

Tandy Corporation has been a very successful company. Their market timing has been uncanny over the years. When CB was big - they were really into it. When it tailed off, they were already into PC's. Many manufacturers took a "red ink CB bath" - but not Tandy.

A couple of weeks ago I got a letter from Ed Juge, Tandy's Director of Media Relations, inviting me to their nationwide Tenth Anniversary Celebration of the TRS-80 Model-1. Ed (also a ham, W5TOO) used to own a couple of ham stores here in the Dallas area. I quickly accepted.

The meeting was actually held at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City, but had satellite linkups to Dallas and Anaheim. Over a thousand Tandy business products managers attending annual meetings were here at the Dallas presentation. All eagerly were anticipating the introduction of new PC's and printers. About fifty from the press corps were in attendance. The theme of the extremely impressive and professionally presented meeting was "Because there is no better value" ...which Tandy has trademarked.

Tandy's Chairman, John Roach was at the main meeting site in New York. He told us how ten years ago a young twenty-year old Bill Gates sold Radio Shack the right to use his Microsoft Basic in a 1½ page letter. "Today, Microsoft's contracts resemble a telephone book."

TANDY'S NEW COMPUTERS, PRINTERS....

The new announcements made by Radio Shack last week include:

- a new Intel 80386 chip-based \$2,599 Tandy 4000 computer with MS-DOS and Unix (16-MHz) operating systems. The 4000, which comes with 1-MB RAM and a 3½ inch 1.44-MB floppy, is compatible with IBM's newest OS/2 operating system. (\$3,499 w/20 MB hard drive,

\$4,299 with a 40.)

- an increase in speed of the (Intel 80286) 3000-HL to 12 MHz and a price reduction of \$200 to \$1,999.

- a new 1400-LT "laptop" with a 25-line-by-80 character LCD display and two 3½" 720K floppies at \$1,599. (7.16 MHz NEC chip, 768K RAM w/removable 4 hour battery pack and optional modem.)

- a new \$1,199 (Intel 80286) 1000-TX 8-MHz addition to the Tandy-1000 line that is three times faster than IBM's new Model 30. (640 KB RAM, one 3½" floppy, w/MS-DOS 3.2, and bundled GW-Basic and Deskmate word-processing, spreadsheet and database.)

- a new entry level \$699 Model 1000-HX with a 720K 3½" disk, MS-DOS, 7.16 MHz, 256K RAM and a 8088 processor. A new "Power-N-Run" feature lets you bypass the operating system and go directly to the application program.

- a new LP-1000 laser printer that allows Tandy to enter the lucrative desktop publishing business. It's \$2,199 price tag is way below the current market price. It uses the same Ricoh engine as that announced by IBM ...has four built in fonts w/additional downloadable fonts available. Up to six different fonts can be used on a single page. Full page graphics are supported at up to 300 dpi. (IBM, and HP "Laserjet" compatible.)

- a new dot-matrix (24-wire letter quality) \$1,599 DMP-2120 printer was also introduced featuring downloadable fonts.

- While microcomputers took up the majority of the meeting, Tandy did mention two new cellular telephones. One was a hand-held (\$1,499) - the other a mobile (\$799.)

Everyone at the kick-off meeting was won over - and I have to admit, I was myself! They have a great line. I was particularly interested in the laser printer - and one of these days (just how soon I am not sure) this newsletter will be produced using one. A media Q&A session hosted by Tandy's Bernie Appel followed the two hour presentation.

RADIO SHACK ENTRY INTO HAM RADIO....

Most of the questions naturally dealt with Tandy computers. When the subject changed to cellular telephones, I identified myself as one of the co-authors (with Gordon V. West/WB6NOA) of the new Radio Shack Novice Voice Class package that appears in their new 1988 catalog. This catalog was also unveiled at the meeting. I asked Bernie about Radio Shack's future plans for amateur Radio.

He said that Radio Shack would be entering Amateur Radio slowly and that they will probably be carrying some additional low price entry level equipment but "not in all stores." While not a ham himself, he seemed knowledgeable that the FCC had indeed increased the entry level amateur privileges. Appel also said that every Radio Shack store manager will be aware of the Novice package because their sales department had prepared a slide on it for special emphasis use during store meetings.

The Novice Voice Class package is pictured on Page 97 in full color in the 1988 catalog which has yet to be distributed to the stores. This is a "library page" of all Radio Shack publications. We were pleased to note the "New for 88" logo and the largest space devoted to it of any book in the preferred upper right hand corner of the page. Forty million catalogs will be distributed. Radio Shack's book buyer is Leon R. Lutz, WB5IUW.

The Novice package is now in the process of being shipped by the publisher to the Radio Shack warehouse in Ft. Worth, Texas. They should have it within a few weeks. It consists of a fully illustrated textbook, two code learning tapes, a Form 610 application ...in a printed plastic binder. Radio Shack item No. 62-2402, \$19.95 retail.

OFFER TO TEST NEW NOVICE CANDIDATES

Now that this Novice training package is published - and will shortly be in all Radio Shack stores, we need your assistance in testing applicants that purchase the package. Here is how you can help!

Contact your local Radio Shack store manager and offer your assistance in

conducting Novice examinations of applicants that study the package. Remember that it takes two volunteer examiners of at least a General class level to hold a Novice test session. It is our goal to have Novice testing teams immediately available to every Radio Shack store that gets an inquiry on where testing might be available.

This is an excellent project for ham clubs to participate in. This newsletter is not copyrighted and appears in numerous newsletters and on various packet, RTTY, Compu-Serve's "HamNet" and other networks. Please give this request the widest possible distribution. Put out the word that Novice VE teams are needed! We certainly do not want Novice applicants studying the package then not be able to be tested!

Although the Novice package contains all of the questions/answers and test preparation instructions, we will make copies of properly constructed Novice tests available to any General Class amateur at no cost. An SASE would be appreciated, however.

After the written examination, all that the test team need do is administer a five minute 5 word-per-minute code test that contains all letters, numerals, punctuation (period, comma, question mark) and operating pro-signs (AR, SK, BT and DN). Twenty five characters in a row passes - as does answering seven out of ten questions about the text.

Send the successful Novice completed Form 610's to us to check and we will reforward to the FCC. Every Radio Shack Novice Voice Class package has a Form 610 application included but more are available from us. No cost (except for a SASE) if you need a few extra. One of the reasons we would like to have the Novice Form 610 applications sent here is to gauge the success of the Novice testing program. The Form 610 should not be ordered from the FCC since they do not have suitable versions available. Keep us posted on your contacts with Radio Shack stores.

We also have our own version of the Novice Voice Class package available. \$19.95 (plus \$2.00 shipping.) Special Novice classroom \$13.95 rate for four or more copies.

UPDATE ON THAILAND VS. U.S. AMATEUR

In our July 15th newsletter we told you about Thai police seizing a U.S. amateur's radio equipment, even though it had never been used and was in storage. For national security reasons, Thailand does not yet authorize individual ham tickets.

Charlie Kelley/W5SPK, Texarkana, Texas, (also HS1AOD) had his equipment confiscated and was arrested due to a little known Thai law that prohibits civilians owning communications equipment that will receive other than the broadcast AM, FM or TV band. He owns an outlawed Kenwood transceiver and Radio Shack, Sony scanners.

On July 16th, a Thai official from the PTT (Postal Telegraph and Telecommunications) office made an offer to Charlie to drop all charges if he donated his equipment (worth about \$2,500) and pay a token fine of about 10,000 baht (\$400 U.S.)

Even though Charlie's Thai lawyer (and member of their ham club) told him that the result could be the same if he opted for a court trial and that he could face a possible jail sentence and a police record, Charlie opted for the trial on charges of having illegal communications equipment in his possession.

Now comes word that the charges will probably be dropped "because of extenuating circumstances." Charlie is a contractor for the U.S. government on a government-to-government contract.

Thailand's National Communication Day was August 4th and supposedly some good news was to be released by the frequency management department and PTT concerning the regulation of amateur radio in Thailand. It is expected that ham tests will be given by the VR (voluntary radio) group and those passing will receive an HS call sign and permission to operate 2-meters.

Meanwhile, we are going ahead with setting up a volunteer examining team in Bangkok for U.S. FCC amateur radio licenses where there are four Extra Class amateurs who can make up the team.

● The FCC released the text of Docket 87-265 which seeks to improve the General Mobile Radio Service. The FCC proposed:

- (1.) ...to license only individuals, but grandfather presently licensed commercial users.
- (2.) ...to extend station operation eligibility to family members.
- (3.) ...to allow licensees to select their own GMRS frequency channel from those available
- (4.) ...to allow channels to be added in between existing GMRS channels

Comments were requested on...

- (5.) whether more than one channel pair should be authorized to GMRS users
- (6.) should technologies such as trunking be considered
- (7.) should GMRS repeaters be FCC regulated
- (8.) should simplex operation be prohibited on repeater channels.

● The ARRL has submitted Supplementary Reply Comments on Docket 87-14 which looks toward re-allocating the top 2-MHz. of the 220-225 MHz band to narrow band Land Mobile operation. They made these points:

- (1.) The League said that propagation characteristics at 220-222 MHz are unique and justify continued amateur occupancy for scientific investigation. An exhibit was attached highlighting a recent Sporadic-E 931 mile 220.1 MHz contact between W5HUQ/-Orange Park, FL and K5UGM/Irving, TX.
- (2.) Other Amateur allocations are not suitable or available substitutes for 220-222 MHz. 420-450 MHz cannot be used effectively for amateur auxiliary links due to interference from Land Mobile operations.
- (3.) Amateurs have expended large amounts of money building weak signal systems. The cost of the Commission's proposal to these individual amateurs is extremely high and cannot be recouped;
- (4.) The existing 218-220 MHz Land Mobile band presents an alternative to the 220-222 MHz proposal and will cause less television interference.

● The Fifth Inter-American Telecommunication Conference (CITEL) is now underway in Lima, Peru. (August 10-14.) One of the items on the agenda is the adoption and

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signing of an inter-American amateur radio service convention which provides reciprocal amateur privileges among signatories. Look for formal reciprocal ham privileges with Mexico soon.

- Better DX propagation days are coming, at least that is the prediction of those folks in the know. Consensus seems to be that Sunspot Cycle 22 is now definitely with us and conditions will steadily improve — leading to solar maximum scheduled for 1991. The best propagation years will be 1990 through 1992.

- The Canadian Radio Relay League advises that a joint Soviet-Canadian DXpedition will leave Severnaya Zemlya Archipelago to cross the North Pole to Canada by ski. The trip will take about three months to journey to Cape Columbia on Ellesmere Island, a distance of some 1,250 miles. The primary communications will be provided by amateur radio. Chief of the expedition, Dr. Dimitry I. Shparo, UA3AJH, and Leonid Labutin, UA3CR, are two of the Soviet radio amateurs involved.

- The FCC has identified Joseph L. Frankowsky, KA9SKZ, as the source of interference to the Orland Park (Illinois) Police Department. Frankowsky had illegally programmed an amateur transceiver to operate on the police frequencies. He impersonated an officer, harassed police with profanity and made false fire alarm calls. He is charged with operating an unlicensed station and causing deliberate interference to police communications. Frankowsky has already been fined \$2,000 and faces amateur license revocation proceedings.

- The Sixth ARRL Amateur Radio Networking Conference will be hosted by the TRW Amateur Radio Club and the Southern California Digital Communications Council at the TRW Space and Technology facility in Redondo Beach, CA, on Saturday August 29 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Further information from Wally Linstruth at: (805) 966-6424.

- The Sociedad Internacional de Radio Aficionados (SIRA), a Miami-based Spanish ham group, has arranged to bring a 13-year old Nicaraguan refugee girl named Cela

Lopez-Leiva from Guatemala City, Guatemala, to the United States to treat a rare blood disease. Her airline ticket and surgery by Dr. William Edward of the St. Thomas Hospital, Nashville, TN, were donated. All Miami television/radio/cable stations carried Cela's arrival in the United States.

- Having been authorized by WARC-79, AM broadcasting between 1605 and 1705 KHz will soon be upon us in the western hemisphere. The FCC is seeking comments on various international matters — particularly technical and planning issues — that will come before the second session of the ITU Region 2 Administrative Radio Conference to be held in the Spring of 1988.

HAM VIDEO SET TO PREMIERE....

The ARRL advises that "The New World of Amateur Radio:" is set to premiere at 6:00 p.m. EDT September 20 on GTE Spacenet 1, Transponder 12H. On most satellite receivers, the show will be on Channel 23. Presented in a fast-paced TV magazine format, the show portrays the excitement and person-to-person contact that only ham radio can provide.

Viewers will meet Joe Fairclough, WB2JKJ, New York City teacher whose Jr. High Class — "The Crew at 22" — learn vocabulary in Morse Code. Ham instructor Gordon West, WB6NOA, conducts a code class the way Seiji Ozawa conducts the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Astronaut Tony England, W0ORE, the first ham in send pictures via amateur radio to and from space, walks the viewer into the future of ham radio while inside NASA's new space station simulator in Houston. And there is footage of fox-hunters in China, hams Dick Rutan and Jeanna Yeager, who made aviation history aboard the Voyager; a DXpedition to Heard Island, inside looks at the Dayton 1987 HamVention and an ARRL Board of Directors meeting.

The League produced the footage in cooperation with Kenwood, ICOM and Yaesu. It was put together with the guiding hand of Roy Neal, K6DUE, the former NBC News Science Editor who is best known for his coverage of the manned space program. Frosty

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Oden, N6ENV, a videotape editor for CBS-TV in Hollywood, served as Produced/Editor, while Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, a broadcast engineer with Fox Television in Los Angeles, was Associate Producer and Technical Supervisor. Principal cameraman was George Barker, NA1F, a news photographer for WVIT-TV in Hartford.

The video is available on the September 20th satellite feed and on a free-loan basis from the League. Copies of the 28½-minute video may also be ordered (\$20.00 prepaid) from the: ARRL; Box #NW, 225 Main St.; Newington, CT 06111.

AUTOMATED POWER METER READING....

John C. Kelly, KB6AWC, in the Dallas suburb of Carrollton has a most unusual predicament. His home is part of a Texas Utilities Electric Company test to take automated power meter readings. The electric wiring in his home is energized with a 12.5 KHz carrier and using this as a conduit, the power company downloads his meter reading.

The dilemma is that 12.5 KHz is an audio frequency that is wreaking havoc with John's home life! The tone cycles on for one second and off for four. He says it sounds like a telephone faintly ringing. His florescent lights, space heater, microwave oven, stereo amplifier, tape deck ...even his toaster plays music (only one note, however, 12,500 hz.)

His neighbors also have the problem and John is worried, since he is a ham, that he will be blamed for the weird phenomenon. He is also concerned about the effect of the tone on his sensitive communications equipment.

PIRATE ROCK'N'ROLL STATION SHUT DOWN

A clandestine "free form rock'n'roll" station broadcasting from the "Sarah", a rusting a Japanese fishing boat, flying a Honduran flag, is now off the airwaves. Operations manager, Randi Steele, 30, of New York City, patterned his operation after the United Kingdom's pirate Radio Caroline and Laser 558. The "Sarah" was anchored some four miles from New York's Jones Beach.

It was only a matter of time before someone tested unlicensed broadcasting from international waters off the U.S. coast. It is surprising it took this long. In theory, the FCC has no jurisdiction over radio signals from foreign registered ships beyond the U.S. claimed three mile territorial limit.

Panamanian registered vessels anchored in the North Sea outside England's twelve mile limit have been successfully broadcasting to the British for decades! In fact, the most popular U.K. rock'n'roll stations have been pirate broadcasters with American DJ's. The English pirate stations even sell advertising from the U.S.

Steele, who had vowed to keep RNI, Radio Newyork International on the air, said that he and about 20 radio enthusiasts were fed up with what they called "stale, conventional rock stations." Although agreeing his station was unlicensed, Steele said he didn't recognize the authority of the FCC.

The station began testing its signals about two weeks ago on four frequencies, 1620 AM, 103.1 FM, 6.2 MHz (shortwave) and low frequency, 190 khz. FCC's monitoring stations began hearing them as far away as Michigan during late July. On Saturday, July 25th, the FCC ordered RNI to cease operations. The warning was ignored.

The end came on July 28th when a Coast Guard cutter came along side, boarded the vessel and arrested the station's engineer, Allan Weiner, 34, of Monticello, Maine, and disk jockey, Ivan Rothstein, 24 of Brooklyn. Officials met with no resistance. The pirate broadcasters were arraigned in U.S. District Court and released. Also arrested but not arraigned was a reporter from the Village Voice, a New York alternative newspaper.

Steele called the boarding illegal and charged that the FCC has no power of arrest. He said he wouldn't give up on the concept. The operation was of a magnitude (at least \$100,000 invested) to lead authorities to speculate that the operation was financed by outsiders experienced in pirate broadcasting. There was even discussion of accepting advertising.

I telephoned the FCC's Richard M. Smith, chief of the FCC's Field Operations Bureau to find out what the "legalities" were.

Smith said that Section 502 of the Communications Act deals with international treaties and conventions. Article 30, Section 266.5 of the ITU Radio Regulations also states that "broadcasting shall not be permitted from vessels or aircraft". The law designates penalties of jail terms up to five years plus fines of up to \$250,000. The U.S. State Department simply contacted the Honduran government and got permission to carry out enforcement of an international law involving illegal activity against U.S. citizens.

The ship is still anchored off of the coast of New York since the winch isn't strong enough to raise the anchor.

My next question to Smith was, "Since England is a signatory to ITU conventions and opposes the North Sea broadcasts, how can pirate broadcasting exist there for nearly 20 years - yet the same situation off the U.S. coast is immediately shut down by the FCC?" Smith said the U.S. position is that the British clandestine broadcasting is illegal under international law. He declined further comment.

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NEW RADIO CLUB OF AMERICA FELLOWS

Three well known (to the amateur community) Radio Club of America members will be among those elevated to the Grade of Fellow for making "exceptional contributions to the art and science of radio communications and electronics."

They are Alan M. Dorhoffer/K2EEK, (Editor of CQ Magazine); Gordon V. West/-WB6NOA, (West Radio School, Inc.) and Michael T. N. Fitch, Esq. (Chief, FCC Private Radio Bureau.) They will receive their awards at the 78th Annual Awards Banquet on November 20th at the New York Athletic Club in New York City.

The July issue of the RCA newsletter also congratulates RCA Fellow James C. McKinney for his promotion from Chief, FCC Mass Media Bureau, to Deputy Assistant to the President, White House.

There has been an annual RCA banquet every year since 1909. The Radio Club of America is the world's oldest and most prestigious radio-electronics organization. Membership is by invitation only. RCA was actually formed in 1907 when youngsters, who were also model airplane hobbyists, became interested in "wireless" communication. The Junior Aero Club formed a new organization on January 2, 1909 called the Junior Wireless Club, Ltd.

The name was changed to the Radio Club of America in 1911. A year later, one of its members, Edwin H. Armstrong, invented the feed-back circuit ...later to become known as the Armstrong oscillator. It made broadcasting possible. He is also the inventor of phase shift or frequency modulation (FM), and the regenerative, superregenerative and superheterodyne circuits. Armstrong primarily developed FM as a "static eliminator." His original FM broadcast station was W2XMN operating on 43.1 MHz.

Armstrong developed another FM system which, to this day, has never been implemented in the spectrum efficient method he originally envisioned. Multiplexed frequency modulation is a means of transmitting FM within FM so that several different broadcast stations can transmit on the same frequency.

It was Edwin H. Armstrong and the Radio Club of America that completed the first trans-atlantic shortwave wireless message when the staff of amateur radio station 1BCG sent a historic Morse code message to Ardrossan, Scotland, from Greenwich, Connecticut on December 11, 1921. Paul F. Godley had been sent to Scotland by the ARRL for the express purpose of listening for U.S. amateur signals.

Post World War-II FCC decisions, opposed by Armstrong, forced FM to move to higher frequencies with lower power. He also became embroiled in a bitter patent infringement suit with RCA. Armstrong was never able to adapt to an environment of regulation and litigation and he leaped to his death in 1954. In 1983 the U.S. Postal Service honored America's foremost inventor in the field of radio technology with a postage stamp.